

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

Claim 1 (currently amended): A plastic substrate for use in optical instruments, the plastic substrate comprising:

a composite substrate in which fibers are embedded in a resin matrix, the fibers being arranged to extend in two nearly orthogonal directions within a plane of the composite substrate; wherein

the composite substrate substantially transmits visible radiation, ~~has an in-plane retardation of substantially zero~~, and is arranged as a quarter-wave plate.

Claims 2-6 (canceled).

Claim 7 (previously presented): The plastic substrate of claim 1, wherein the fibers are embedded in the resin matrix as a bundle of fibers, a woven fabric or a nonwoven fabric.

Claim 8 (previously presented): The plastic substrate of claim 1, further comprising a protective coating on at least one principal surface of the composite substrate.

Claim 9 (previously presented): A liquid crystal display device comprising the plastic substrate of claim 1 and a liquid crystal layer.

Claim 10 (original): The liquid crystal display device of claim 9, further comprising a polarizer, which is arranged such that the absorption axis of the polarizer is either substantially

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parallel or substantially perpendicular to the at least one predetermined direction in which the fibers are arranged.